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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FENUGREEK (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*).

Fenugreek is an annual legume which is native in the Mediterranean region. It is also grown in India and tropical Africa. It seems to be cultivated in these places solely for the seed, which possesses excellent medicinal properties. Considerable quantities of the seed are imported into this country and used in medical preparations. It is one of the principal ingredients of the well-known "condition powders" used for stock. It has a very strong and distinct odor.

Cultivation.—Little is known about the cultivation of fenugreek. It has been grown in this country only experimentally until the last few years. It is now being used in a limited way as a green-manure crop in the citrus orchards of California and is giving excellent results wherever tried. It is quite similar in general appearance to a rank growth of alfalfa, though the leaves are larger and the color a darker green. The average height is about 24 inches. It is not known definitely whether it will be of any value in other parts of the United States. Fenugreek has not given any promise as a summer crop in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., but it may be planted in the autumn at Washington and farther south and might do well if treated in that way. Its roots become densely tubercled when well inoculated, and it is not difficult to secure inoculation.

Seeding.—The seed should be sown in September or October in California, on well-prepared soil, at the rate of about 10 pounds to the acre. The best practice is to do the seeding with a drill, being careful not to get the seed too deep and to have sufficient moisture to insure germination.



